

Minutes

**IGA Governing Board
Contract for
Early Childhood Educational Services
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
OPRFHS High School Board Room**

The meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Peter Barber, Jennifer Cassell, Rupa Datta, Gordon Hellwig, Carol Kelly, Joylynn Pruitt-Adams, Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Cara Pavlicek, Bob Spatz and Penny Wallingford. Teresa Powell, recording secretary.

Absent: Colette Lueck, Jackie Moore

Visitors: Laura Crawford, Michelle Harton, Penny Williams-Wolford

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Barber moved to approve the agenda, as presented; seconded by Dr. Pruitt-Adams. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pavlicek moved to approve the minutes of September 28, 2016; seconded by Mr. Spatz. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Public Comment: None

Report on Contract Implementation 7/1/16-1/31/17

Ms. Wallingford, Vice Chair of the Collaboration Board, acknowledged the support of the Village, D200 and D97 boards for the work of the Collaboration and also acknowledged the support of the Collaboration staff.

Incorporating Developmental Screening in Childcare, Preschool and Health Provider Settings

Ms. Wallingford reviewed the developmental screening process which now includes more than 30 sites including three medical practices that use the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2. Staff at these sites received 15 hours of training on the screening program and up to six technical support hours per month. The Collaboration is talking with the Oak Park Public Library and Wonderworks about making kits available for parent use. 1364 children, have already received vision and hearing screening.

Providing Information and Support for Families of Infants and Children

To facilitate coordinated intake among the three agencies working with the Collaboration the Village of Oak Park is in the process of hiring a Nurse Family Case Manager through a contract

with the Collaboration. This position has been open for more than 2 years and will provide medical home visits for medically fragile and low-income families.

Conducting Professional Development for Early Care Providers

The 14th Annual Symposium will be held on Saturday, February 25 with more than 30 workshops offered. Luis Hernandez will give the keynote on social-emotional development. Other professional training will be offered to 154 early childhood professionals for Gateways credentials for early childhood. Social emotional coaching and technical assistance are being offered at 12 early childhood programs (both center and home-based).

Promoting High Quality Public Preschool Programs

The Collaboration is working with three public preschool programs to assist with re-application for the Preschool for All (PFA) grant from the state by writing the needs assessment for their applications and providing supporting data. The Kindergarten Readiness Test will be administered to over 100 children in their natural school setting this year, to reduce the stress of the test-taking process that may impact their performance.

Building and Implementing a Unified Early Childhood Database

Working with Chapin Hall, the Collaboration issued two reports. The first in September 2016 identified progress targets for data collection. The second report in November 2016 followed up to provide values for two professional development outcome measures. We have provided you with our plan for progress using the data with the materials for this meeting.

A grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation will allow the Collaboration to continue and enhance areas of inquiry beyond the 11 indicators of the IGA contract.

Efforts to Strengthen the Collaboration's Internal Operations and

Carolyn Newberry Schwartz and Bob Goerge of Chapin Hall presented at the Data, Research and Evaluation Committee of the Illinois Early Learning Council. Shannon Ellison and Carolyn Newberry Schwartz attended a Developmental Screening Summit of the Early Learning Council and the Ounce of Prevention Fund.

Fundraising exceeded the \$95,000 goal with 26% from individual donors. An upcoming benefit, Karaoke for Kids, is scheduled for June 22, 2017.

Mr. Barber asked for more detail about the hiring of a nurse-practitioner, and Ms. Newberry Schwartz discussed the position and duties. Ms. Pavlicek added that this is grant-funded position with the Village's Department of Public Health. Mr. Barber suggested using success stories on the website. Ms. Datta noted the importance of coordinating intake among the three agencies with divided loyalties. The focus is on those who are low income or confront other challenges they may impact their development.

To date the State of Illinois has paid nothing for the PFA program and some smaller programs are borrowing to meet payroll. Mr. Spatz noted that programs are being advertised by the State

but no monies are available; Ms. Pavlicek noted that this was true for Village Health programs too.

Ms. Cassell asked if the developmental screening program was being marketed to patrons at the library and at WonderWorks. Carolyn Newberry Schwartz responded that they would be marketing it through the Collaboration and through Wonderworks and the Library once it is on solid footing.

Collaboration Financial Report

Mr. Hellwig, Collaboration Board Treasurer, reviewed the financial statements, noting that net income was greater than budgeted. A new coordinator was hired on January 30, 2017 for the Parent Resource program.

Ms. Newberry Schwartz noted that the proposed budget is in line with natural growth of the organization and anticipated bigger growth in home visits. Mr. Spatz noted that there has been slower growth in the past year due to transition to Easter Seals. Ms. Newberry Schwartz added that she expects that the invoices for the program for this year will be for a smaller amount than budgeted.

Early Development Instrument Pilot Project: Consideration of Participation

The application for the Early Development Instrument, which the IGA and Collaboration considered participating in last year, will be out next week and due in early April. Because of the timing last year, the Collaboration did not participate, but Ms. Newberry-Schwartz will apply this year. She reminded the IGA Governing Board members that they had set aside \$28,000 from the reserve administrative account to cover costs of teacher participation time.

Candidate Information Meetings

There was discussion of a survey of all candidates with two questions on their familiarity with the Collaboration. Mr. Barber suggested a format like that used by I-Gov, a forum to present information to all candidates about the Collaboration. Mr. Spatz added that the Collaboration might present jointly with I-Gov in the next election. It was noted that all D200 candidates stated that they support the Collaboration at a recent forum, demonstrating some familiarity with the organization. Ms. Pavlicek suggested that past elected officials, such as David Pope and Colette Lueck, serve as “mentors” to newly elected officials to familiarize them with the Collaboration. Ms. Newberry-Schwartz proposed doing this immediately after the election. Ms. Pavlicek will reach out to Mr. Pope and Ms. Lueck.

Administrative Update on the IGA: Finance

Mr. Spatz will send an administrative update tomorrow.

Next Meeting

The next meeting, which is the annual tri-board meeting, is scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, May 18, 2017 a dinner meeting with the Collaboration Board and Council members. The location and details will be announced later.

Additional IGA Board Comments/Concerns

Ms. Cassell thanked the group for all their work. Ms. Pavlicek offered thanks.

Ms. Datta read a message from Amy Felton asking that the IGA start to plan for the renewal of the IGA contract as the group will reach year five on July 1, 2017. Ms. Newberry-Schwartz explained that the current contract allows for ongoing operation and that a governmental member would have to give notice if they wish to withdraw.

Ms. Datta added that Ms. Felton asked if new objectives needed to be established for the next five years. Ms. Newberry-Schwartz will talk with Chapin Hall about this; the data-sharing process is still being ramped up. Ms. Datta added that the current indicators may not always be the most important indicators; other pressing questions may also arise now that the program has been in operation for a while.

Ms. Pavlicek noted that there was a sense of a need for a longer view, a 10 year process through 2023 when the contract was written, and asked about when a review and possible revision would make sense. Should this be sooner than 10 years. Ms. Datta noted that a couple of years of data are helpful to begin to identify an needed revisions.

Ms. Spatz noted three issues which can impact things. The D97 referendum, the Early Development Instrument which will collect data that could lead to the transformation of the early childhood programs, and the enrollment in the Preschool for All program and the transformation experienced.

Mr. Barber asked what would happen if the D97 referenda fails, and whether the funding for IGA is in jeopardy. Ms. Spatz said it was unlikely, but possible.

Mr. Barber asked about the joint meeting plans for May 18 and whether the issues would be different from the IGA regular meetings. Ms. Newberry-Schwartz said that a program update and financials would be provided. The meeting will focus on a couple of the key issues that the Collaboration wants to address over the next year in addition to the election of new board members. Mr. Spatz added that if there are any issues specific to either group, they could meet immediately before or after the joint meeting.

Mr. Spatz will attend a world forum in May in New Zealand and participate in a panel.

Adjournment

At 8:15 p.m., it was moved by Peter Barber and seconded by Cara Pavlicek to adjourn. A voice vote resulted in all ayes. Motion carried.

Submitted by
Teresa Powell